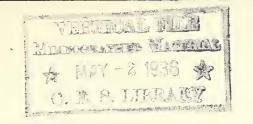
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## THE FEDERAL EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

Number 4

April 1, 1936

C. P. Close, Senior Extension Horticulturist

#### FRIENDLY GOALS

Goals have a place in every plan of work, but are sometimes slighted or even in extreme cases left out. We believe it is better at least to flirt with goals rather than to slight them. They are pretty good companions and have a habit of reminding one of things done and undone. Occasionally a perfectly good line of work will become lost in the furious rush of seasonable work, and it isn't missed until results are needed for the annual report. Reviewing the list of goals occasionally is a reminder to urse along any of them that are loitering by the wayside. The time when goals score highest and are really helpful friends is at the end of the year when the rush and worry of the year's work are over, and one can sit down in peace and quiet and compose the annual report.

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United States Department of Agriculture Division of Cooperative Extension and Bureau of Plant Industry Cooperating

#### EDITORIAL

## Time in Field vs. Time in Office

We are often asked how a State horticultural specialist should divide his time between field operations and office work. This is a puzzling question, and no formula has been worked out to settle it. It seems to us that this is a matter to be arranged between the extension director and State specialists in each State. The insistent calls for help, the eagerness of the specialists to get several to many projects under way, the distance apart of projects in the State, the amount of assistance county, home and club agents, and local leaders can give, the weather conditions, the unexpected and sudden emergencies, all these and other things lure the specialist into the field and keep him there. We really believe that some of the specialists spend a little too much time in the field. The unfortunate result of this is that not enough time is then available for the specialist to read, to study, and to inform himself on the worth-while information appearing monthly in horticultural books, bulletins, pamphlets, and periodicals. If a suggestion may be offered it would be this: In drawing up the plan of work, limit the number of projects; allot time to each one and to the office; carefully work out the calendar of operations; and then follow the plan and calendar very closely. A few projects well done are worth more than many projects not so well done.

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Ideas are no good unless they are used as guides to life. - Anonymous.

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#### FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND

All the State budgets for the present fiscal year are in, and now we can tell you how horticulture fared in State allotments. The total allotments are \$428,202.94, a gain of \$75,854.77 in two years. In only two fiscal years have the total allotments been higher than at present, namely, 1930-31 with \$460,435.64 and 1931-32 with \$463,403.85. There are now 45 States with horticultural projects employing 125 State specialists.

New York leads all the States with \$33,357, Pennsylvania follows with \$27,290.20 and Massachusetts with \$22,250. There are 8 States with between \$14,000 and \$27,000. All the other States run below \$14,000. Many of the county agents and home agents use considerable sums for horticulture, which is not included in the allotments and for which there is no separate accounting.

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To quell the pride, even of the greatest, we should reflect how much we owe to others and how little to ourselves. - Colton.

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#### STATE SPECIALISTS

There are only half a dozen names for this number of the Federal Extension Horticulturist. Kindly help us to keep this section up to date.

Mr. W. G. Amstein resigned his position in Arkansas several months ago to take up the same line of work in Kansas.

Prof. Claude Woolsey, who was formerly extension horticulturist in Arkansas, returned to his former position when Mr. W. G. Amstein resigned to go to Kansas.

Mr. H. F. Tate is now filling the position in Arizona formerly held by Mr. Fred Draper.

Mr. A. L. Keller is doing extension work with vegetables in West Virginia.

Mr. John Wingert has been appointed to do work in floriculture in Iowa.

Mr. Phil Minges has taken up work with small fruits in Iowa.

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It doesn't hurt anybody to have to tighten his belt a bit.

Most of 'em are too big anyway. - Anonymous.

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#### TRUE STORIES FROM THE STATES\*

Wisconsin - C. I. Kuehner. It is expected that the fruit-course work will be an excellent means of working up spray ring organizations in communities where previously it has been difficult to obtain sufficient orchard-mindedness for organization. In turn the spray ring organizations will develop a need for the services of a county-wide organization such as a County Fruit Growers' Association.

Kansas - L. W. Patton. Chemically treated bands were demonstrated for the most effective position on the tree, width, protective coatings, and size of tacks used. Two-inch bands seemed to be the most economical width. Asphalts gave promising results as a means of protecting the tree from band injury. The injury to the tree caused by the tacks which held the band varied directly with the size of the shank.

California - W. R. Schoonover. Another project has been cooperation with the office of Western Irrigation Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rubidoux Laboratory, Riverside, in improving quality of irrigation water with special reference to boron in certain districts. The boron contaminations come pretty largely from hot springs. In some cases it has been possible to direct the flow of these hot springs away from the irrigation supplies and discharge it into either dry washes where the boron will be fixed by the soil, or into the ocean with floodwaters. Two such projects are under way at the present time and they should result in improvement of the water supply and greatly improved orchard conditions in two important districts.

#### VEGETABLES

New York - E. V. Hardenburg. The potato program of Allegany County now calls for a winter potato school at which the best cultural practices will be discussed. Also, several field demonstrations are planned whereby growers will be shown differences between certified seed and a collection of locally assembled poor strains, good and poor tillage practice and the advantage of closer plant spacing.

Survey results are being used similarly in several other counties. The outstanding phase of this particular project is the fact that the survey brought to light a very different and a truer picture of present situations than has been obtained heretofore by merely taking account of the more progressive potato growers.

<sup>\*</sup>These are the remainder of the stories which could not be included in "Some High Lights in Horticultural Extension in 1935," nor in the "Federal Extension Horticulturist, February 1, 1936."

New Jersey - C. H. Nissley. Another satisfactory project was the distributing of fertilizer in bands along each side of the row of vegetable seeds and a couple of inches deeper than the seed was planted.

With Japanese onion sets, 1,500 pounds of 4-10-8 fertilizer were used. In 32-inch rows (the cooperator's regular method of broadcasting) the fertilizer yielded 143 bushels compared with 218 bushels for the band fertilizing. In 20-inch rows the former method yielded 228 bushels and the strip method 348 bushels.

Maryland - H. A. Hunter. A policy was adopted this year, calling for more or less regular inspections of the seed-production areas by the specialist or others interested in canning crops at the University. Trips were made this year to the western pea-seed areas, eastern sweet-corn and tomato-seed sections, and the tomato-plant-production sections of southern Georgia. The information obtained from such inspections will be used as a basis for recommendations to canners and growers and in planning future work. This work is believed to be desirable inasmuch as this territory has had the reputation in the past of being the dumping-ground for poor-quality seed.

Virginia - L. B. Dietrick. Two phases of the sweetpotato project especially worthy of comment are certified-seed production, and storage-house construction.

Seed-certification work was carried on with 71 growers producing 399 acres of sweetpotatoes, an increase in acreage over 1934 of 179 percent. The 1935 crop will not be certified until January of 1936. In January 1935, however, inspections were made and certification issued for 8,178 bushels produced in 1934. Incomplete records show that 4,214 bushels of this seed sold for \$5,910.05. In 1935, growers also realized \$4,115.70 from the sale of 2,057,000 plants, bringing the total income from seed and plants to \$10,025.75. Of far more importance, however, are the seed and plants which were not sold but used for bedding and planting on the growers' own farms and on the farms of neighbors.

In the sweetpotato-storage-house project 16 houses were constructed in 10 counties, ranging in capacity from 500 to 10,000 bushels. Total storage capacity for the 16 houses amounted to 56,800 bushels.

The 16 houses constructed this year bring the total to 121 houses constructed since the project began. These houses are located in 24 counties and have a total capacity of approximately 284,450 bushels, or an average capacity of over 2,350 bushels. The tendency in late years has been toward houses of larger capacity.

House-cured sweetpotatoes usually sell at a premium of at least 50 cents per bushel above the average price paid in the field. Even though only 50 percent of the total capacity of these houses was utilized, the

premium value alone would still be over \$71,000.

Louisiana - Miss Bertha Lee Ferguson. Three years ago, Dr. J. C. Miller, horticulturist with the Louisiana State University Experiment Station, gave the specialist 72 pounds of Creole English per seed for distribution to garden leaders. These leaders planted part of the seed and gave the surplus to their fellow club members. As a result, 2,490 women this year reported growing Creole English peas, and 488 women have a surplus of seed. In addition, 1,350 women last year received seed of the Louisiana Copenhagen cabbage, 2,309 women received seed of the Louisiana sweet collard, and 800 garden leaders received white-shallot sets, all developed by the Louisiana State University Experiment Station, and distributed through the home-demonstration agents and garden leaders.

Louisiana's home-produced fruit supply is very inadequate; so as a part of the garden program, each club member has been encouraged to plant at least one fruit or nut tree and one small fruit. This year, 4,151 women reported planting 28,798 fruit or nut trees. With the preparation of an orchard, more emphasis will be placed on this part of the program next year. Three parishes, Bienville, Bossier, and Ouachita, which are in the area best adapted to fruit-growing, are taking home-orchards as a major project and are working toward one demonstration orchard in each community.

Michigan - C. H. Mahoney. All the various sections of the State growing vegetables sent delegates to attend a meeting at the college on March 26. These delegates not only represented all the commercial market-garden sections, but also the onion and celery growers and the general market gardeners. At this time these delegates wrote and drew up a proposed vegetable-grading bill. This was submitted three weeks later to the State Senate about three or four weeks before it adjourned. The bill, of course, was introduced too late to come up for consideration, but it drew together the delegates from different sections in the State, and the little local organizations that had been fighting among themselves.

Several very important matters of legislation, inspection, and quarantine came up during the year that have been acted on by the executive board appointed at the delegates' convention in March. The first annual convention of the Michigan Vegetable Growers' Association was held in Grand Rapids, December 3 and 4, 1935.

Indiana - W. B. Ward. Practically every commercial sweetpotato grower in Indiana either visited the sweetpotato demonstrational plots, or has been informed of the results. Demonstrations have been placed, two to a county, in our southwestern area. Seed treatment, to control serious stem rot, and fertilization were the points stressed. Plots set with treated rooted stems show that an increase of over 150 bushels resulted. Plots properly fertilized yielded an increase of over 200 bushels compared with unfertilized plots.

Results from the 400-bushel potato-clubs demonstrations have been State-wide. The average yield per acre now in Indiana is approximately 100

bushels, while four or five years ago it was less than 80 bushels. The acreage increase in the last 5 years was 24,000 with an increase in production of approximately 3,000,000 bushels.

South Dakota - F. M. McMahon. Since last April, Mr. McMahon has been State director of all subsistence gardens in South Dakota and has worked in conjunction with county agents and county relief directors, the State extension service, State relief administration, and county organizations cooperating. Four types of gardens were used. The small individual or backward garden, the community garden for clients who did not have backyard space, the relief garden, (a.5-acre unit), and the canning garden of 80 acres in each tract. In the State there were 52,000 individual gardens totaling 20,000 acres, 600 acres in community gardens, 1,600 acres in relief gardens, and 400 acres in canning gardens.

Production was reduced in the central and western portions of the State because of drought. From relief and canning gardens 600,000 No. 2 cans of vegetables were canned. Approximately 2,300,000 pounds of vegetables were used green or stored from combined gardens.

Iowa - C. L. Fitch. After carrying on spraying-demonstration work in potatoes for a number of years, the conclusion was reached that a full showing could not be obtained on the benefits of bordeaux spraying for the control of leafhopper, and with calcium arsenate for the control of flea beetles, because these insects, particularly the leafhoppers, move over the field, unless the sprayed and unsprayed plots are separated.

With this in mind in 1935, the spray plots were separated from the unsprayed plots with other crops like cabbage or onions, using the same for other demonstrations. The result was most gratifying in 1935. Although full crops and therefore maximum returns were not obtained, the spray gains ran 75 to 100 bushels to the acro. It is believed that if it were possible to do this work without field damage, the gains from five to seven or eight bordeaux sprays in large crops often would run to 125 or even 150 bushels to the acre.

#### LANDSCAPE GARDENING AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Vermont - Mrs. Charlotte P. Brooks. Within the last year the greater proportion of the work has been done with individual cooperators. This has consisted of a call, at which time a rough ground plan was made of the house and immediate surroundings. The plantings already placed were noted, and suggested future plantings were indicated on the plan. These plans were copied in the office and a copy was sent to each cooperator as a reminder of the conference and the suggestions made during the call.

Texas - Miss Omah Jacks. The specialist and agent paced the grounds, collecting all the data necessary for drawing the plan. Back at the office the specialist and home agent completed the plan and attached a suggested plan of work for the demonstrator and the home agent to follow

in making the demonstration. This left little place for disorder either in the thing done or in the way it was done.

The home agents have liked this kind of help, because it strikes at the root of some of their difficulties and it shows the specialist in action, with the agent free to observe. The demonstrators have appreciated the business-like approach and regard their agreement to establish a demonstration as a contract properly entered into. The systematic planning has resulted in steady progress of the demonstration; and more stimulating demonstrations are stirring cooperators to better results. With many agents already reporting that all of their demonstrators are provided with the right kind of plans, 1935 reports will no doubt show a new "high" in the Texas yard-demonstration work.

Arkansas - W. G. Amstein. Since many home-demonstration agents expressed a desire for more thorough training and for an opportunity for questions and discussion of problems that could not be handled in an open moeting, a joint school in "Housing and Home Grounds", lasting one week, was held at the University following the annual conference this summer. Fifty-three home-demonstration agents attended this school. Plant materials, insect and disease problems, fundamentals of landscape-planting, native plants, roses, lawn making, highway planting, screen, border, and foundation plantings were the principal items discussed in the home-grounds section. Instruction was furnished by the college of agriculture staff. This served to provide a better understanding of the problems and a knowledge of the fundamentals needed to carry on the program.

Michigan - 0. I. Gregg. In a recent questionnaire sent out in one county, results showed that seven families are influenced by each one of the planted result demonstrations, that is, seven persons are influenced to give attention to their home greas.

Michigan - Paul A. Krone. Production cost records with a group of growers during the past four years have resulted in the compilation of considerable information along this line and the working out of a simple cost-finding system for greenhouse methods. This system was adopted by some of the growers and has proved to be valuable to them. It will be a valuable guide for growers in the selection of profitable crops.

Ohio - V. H. Ries. Tours have been conducted to gardens, State parks, and other scenic spots in the interest of native materials and conservation. We have had an attendance of from 100 to 500 people on these tours. Some people came from 100 to 200 miles to take part in these tours.

Lantern slides are becoming more and more popular and it is difficult to secure sufficient funds to have new ones made. We reach many of the groups sufficiently often that they have seen all our slides.

At practically all meetings and tours, especially if materials are mentioned, mimeographed sheets listing these plants are handed out.

Flower-show schools continue to play a big part in our garden-club activities. Outlines on planning and judging flower shows are used as texts for these schools. Twelve flower shows had an attendance of nearly 1,000 in 1935.

Indiana - R. B. Hull. School-ground development, as well as rural church projects, have received greater attention during the year than in previous years. The annual improvement-day work program has included much planting and pruning experience, and has afforded many practical demonstrations. Twenty-seven counties were visited by the specialists on the school and church-ground projects. Forty-two meetings were held, with a total attendance of 1,391.

The summary of the work in home-ground development shows that local groups held 534 meetings during the year devoted to the study and discussion of landscape problems. The average attendance at these meetings was 18, total attendance, 9,612. Three hundred twenty-four members prepared measured drawings which were studied by the landscape specialist in plan-study conferences. Annual plan-study conferences in project counties during the year have nearly doubled the number of home grounds on which development programs have been adopted.

Illinois - M. G. Fuller. Forty-seven counties have held information meetings on the subject of landscape gardening during the past year. In all there have been 142 meetings and tours with an attendance of over 4,100 persons. Fifteen of these 47 counties will qualify for demonstration projects in 1936. Two counties have already started upon this type of work.

Wisconsin - L. G. Holmes. As carried out, this consisted of a cooperative project with the home agents using the already organized homemakers' group. Eight groups of from 8 to 14 were organized. Membership was definitely enrolled and limited to homemakers' groups who were actually interested in improving their home grounds. The course consisted of four monthly meetings with each group, November to February inclusive. At these meetings members received instructions in general landscape problems and particular help on those of their own grounds. During the course each person developed an improvement plan for his or her own grounds. At each meeting a different phase of home-grounds development was discussed and the remainder of the time was spent in working on plans so that at the end of the fourth meeting each person had a completed plan for the landscape development of the grounds. The lectures and the order in which they were given were: (1) Fundamental principles of rural home-ground design and lawn practices; (2) Proper location and variety of trees; (3) Arrangement and care of shrubs; and (4) The flower garden with emphasis on perennials.

Wyoming - W. O. Edmonson. Two trips were made into the mountains west of Cody in 1933, to secure native trees and shrubs for foundation and yard plantings. These were planted at the homes of 10 farmers, after landscape plans were drawn under the direction of county extension workers, extension

horticulturist, and the project leader. Much interest was displayed this first year and these 10 farmers proved just what could be accomplished by using native plants for beautification. In 1934, 10 additional farms were added and in 1935, 10 more were added to the general program, and each year trips were made to secure native plants.

The interest has been increasing so rapidly that fully 20 new formers wished to enter their yards each year, but with one leader it was thought advisable to permit only 10 each year to enter. Gardens, fruits, and flowers developed extensively, and the places entered so far have certainly made wonderful advancements. In fact the improvement program has spread to most of the farms on the project and now it is hard to tell by looking at the places just who were members of the program and who were not.

Each member was a distinct help to the others by way of providing flowers or other plants when thinning operations had to be done.

This plan has far excelled the contest plan because it has been learned that a contest leads too much to individualism, especially when there is a prize in view. By this plan everyone has worked in a spirit of cooperation, one toward another.

Utah - J. C. Hogenson. Five hundred hardwood trees have been planted in the new recreational park in Box Elder Canyon. Two concrete water reservoirs are now under construction for water storage, for irrigation, sewage disposal and drinking water. These reservoirs will have a daily capacity of 150,000 gallons. In amphitheatre, baseball grounds, roads, walks, mountain trails, golf course, skating pond, swimming pool, tennis courts, and a complete water system, toilets, etc., are being installed. In doing this, the object has been to retain as much as possible the natural beauty and atmosphere of a natural beauty spot, for rest and recreation. On August 27 last the ground-breaking exercises were held. This is the first Rural Recreational Reserve to be established in the United States.

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It is the family life which makes man or woman, and it is the community life that makes the nation. - Theodore Roosevelt.

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#### 1936 FRUIT PROSPECTS

Wish the State specialists would be good enough to send in notes on fruit prospects and winter injury as of May 1 to 15, so they may be included in the next Federal Extension Horticulturist about June 1. The past winter was so unusually severe in some States that there will be many interesting observations to report.

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Illinois

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Pruning young fruit trees. Ext. Leaflet 109, rev., 1955.

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## Published during January 1936

Varietal suitability of peaches for preserve making and factors affecting the quality of the product, C. 375. Price 5 cents.

Car lot shipments of fruits and vegetables from stations in the United States for the calendar years 1932 and 1933, S. B. 50 Price 15 cents.

Handbook of official United States standards for beans - revised August 1, 1935 Price 10 cents.

# Published during February 1936

Refrigeration of oranges in transit from California, T. B. 505. Price 5 cents.

Rodents and moles as pests in bulb planting, C. 379. Price 5 cents.

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Uncle Ezra says, "Getting a new idea is just like sitting on a pin, you just jump and get busy doing something."

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<sup>\*</sup>FB = Farmers' bulletin; TB = technical bulletin; C = circular; MP = miscellaneous publication; SB = statistical bulletin; Q = Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; H = Hawaii bulletin.